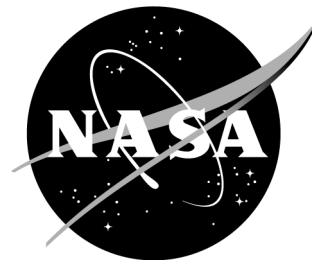


NewsRelease

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Langley Research Center
Hampton, Va. 23681-2199



Marny Skora
NASA Langley Research Center
Phone: 757/864-6121; 757/344-6111(mobile)
marny.skora@nasa.gov

For release: Feb. 13, 2004

John Defelice
Newberry County School District
Phone: 803/321-2600; 803/924-0724 (mobile)
jdefelice@newberry.k12.sc.us

RELEASE: 04-011

NOTE TO EDITORS:

NASA DIRECTOR TO SHARE EXPLORATION VISION WITH STUDENTS

Former astronaut and current Director of NASA's Langley Research Center Roy D. Bridges Jr. will visit Newberry Middle School at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 17, to share the agency's vision for space exploration with the next generation of explorers. Bridges will be accompanied by current astronaut Pamela Ann Melroy.

"I've had the good fortune to experience exploration first-hand -- as an Air Force test pilot and NASA astronaut," said Bridges. "I want to share with today's students both the excitement of discovery and how they can prepare to play a roll in our nation's future in space."

Bridges will talk with Newberry students about America's heritage as explorers and outline NASA's stepping-stone approach to exploring Earth, returning to the Moon, then moving on to Mars and beyond.

"We won't know what lies on these distant shores until we see, touch and learn by doing -- first with robots and eventually as humans," said Bridges.

Media interested in arranging interviews with Roy Bridges should contact Marny Skora at 757-864-3315 or John Defelice at 803-321-2600 by noon on Monday, Feb. 16.

-more-

Melroy, a U.S. Air Force Colonel, joined the astronaut corps in 1995. She served as pilot on two Shuttle flights (STS-92 in 2000 and STS-112 in 2002), and has logged over 560 hours in space.

Newberry Middle School is an Explorer School and is participating in a three-year partnership with NASA. Stimulating student imaginations and creativity via NASA discoveries and developments, the partnership seeks to inspire young people and help them pursue careers in science, technology and engineering.

For information about the NASA Explorer Schools Program on the Internet, visit:

<http://explorerschools.nasa.gov>

For more information about the President's vision for space exploration, visit:

http://www.nasa.gov/missions/solarsystems/bush_vision.html

For more information about NASA, visit:

<http://www.nasa.gov>